



WORDS TO THE WISE²

WOMEN IN SEARCH OF EDUCATION AND EQUITY

Volume 28, Issue 4

December, 2023 – January, 2024



Winchester (VA) Branch

MISSION

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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<http://winchester-va.aauw.net/>

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December Meeting

Peter Bullough Foundation Artists in Residence

**Saturday, December 9, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

***Peter Bullough Foundation
120 West Cork Street***

One of the hidden gems of our community is the Peter Bullough Foundation which has an Artists in Residence Program. Katie Mooney, Director of the PBF will be our guest speaker. This is your opportunity to learn who Peter Bullough was and why he was so interested in the arts that he created the PBF. The PBF owns two buildings on Cork Street, one for administration and the other for artists in residence. You will have the opportunity to tour both facilities and the stunning gardens (so wear walking shoes). This is a rare opportunity to meet the artists, tour the facilities and learn about the PBF programs presented throughout the year. Be sure to take advantage of this special opportunity.

Here is a link to the PBF website if you want to learn more about this non-profit before the December meeting.
<https://www.peterbulloughfoundation.org/>.

The meeting will be held at the Peter Bullough Foundation, 120 West Cork Street. There is parking on the street and at the Braddock Street Parking Garage. If you need a ride, please let **Tess Thome** or **Theresa Merkel** know.

Board Meeting

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024
Zoom 6 p.m.**

All members are invited to attend.

There will be NO January Meeting

February Meeting

Famous Black Women of Winchester

**Saturday, February 10, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

***T-Bone Steak and Grill
567 North Kent Street***

We are very fortunate to have two amazing women make presentations on famous black citizens of Winchester at our February meeting. Although the specific topic has not been disclosed, it may center exclusively on famous black women of Winchester. The presenters will be Judy Humbert, our 2023 Woman of the Year and Sharon Dixon, a well-known historian in Winchester, as is Judy. These two women are indeed current, famous black citizens of Winchester and deserve any and all accolades AAUW can attribute to them.

The program and meeting will be at the T-bone Steak and Grill at 567 N Kent St, Winchester, VA 22601 at 10:00 am, followed by lunch for those who want to stay for the same. The menu is being developed and will be available soon. This location is diagonally across from the new Winchester School Administration office.

Please include friends who may be interested in this interesting and informative event. As always, **Tess Thome** and **Theresa Merkel** are available if you need a ride.

President's Message

Pat Kadel



If You Want to Make God Laugh, Tell Him Your Plans

While this may sound like a proverb or something from The Bible, Woody Allen, the not-so-proverbial and not-so-biblical comedian, is credited with first saying it. It is based on the Yiddish proverb, "We plan; God laughs." Both versions make us laugh because they express a truth we grasp. Reality diverges from our plans quite significantly. That's certainly been my case the past several weeks.

October was exceptionally busy for me and, by the end of the month, I was exhausted. I "cleared my calendar" for the first three weeks of November with plans to rest and get a head start on the "Holiday Season".

God laughed.

A frantic phone call from a relative had me and my husband heading to Florida to help her clean out another relative's home. There were a lot of important family papers and heirlooms that had to be removed by the end of the month. Although rushed, we made lists of things we might need and packed shorts, t-shirts and swimsuits should we have spare time to enjoy the warm weather.

God laughed.

It rained the entire time but we barely noticed since we spent long days moving furniture and boxes, and sorting through piles of clutter for photographs,

important papers and documents. We were never outdoors except to run between buildings or hopping puddles.

God laughed.

We wrapped up the week clearing out a storage unit where we discovered a corner cabinet that had great sentimental value for my daughter. Of course, she wanted it. It was too long to fit in the bed of our truck, so we reserved a U-Haul for the afternoon before we left.

God laughed.

We picked up the trailer and loaded it in pouring rain and headed out early the next morning—in the rain. When we stopped for gas a few miles up the road, we noticed a large gash in one of the trailer's tires. There was no way that it would last the 872-mile trip home. Four hours and three detours later, we had a new tire and were back on the road.

God laughed.

I had spent several hours using maps and the internet to find the perfect place to spend a few days before heading home. Myrtle Beach was forecast to be sunny and warm, and was about six and a half hours from home. We made reservations, planning to rest and relax, checking on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

God laughed.

As Tuesday neared, we watched the ominous weather reports for the East Coast. Once again using maps and the internet, I planned the best route to take and best time for us to leave to avoid the worst of the storm. By leaving early, we'd make progress before encountering the

worst holiday traffic. We encountered steady rain by noon so went through a drive-through and continued north. By Richmond, traffic was stop and go on I-95. The rain continued to get heavier and traffic continued to move more slowly the further north we traveled.

God laughed.

We had planned to be home before 3:00 but, with only two gas and restroom stops, we arrived home after 6:30 pm. But we'd helped a dear family member, found a lot of photos and interesting Kadel family heirlooms, enjoyed a few days of warm sun, and delivered cherished memories to our daughter.

God laughed and we did, too.

As you plan and prepare for the upcoming holidays, plan when you must, but try to remember this wise advice I recently read about plans and planning:

- Plans should point you but not preoccupy you.
- Write your plans in pencil not with a Sharpie. Recognize their limitations.
- Seek wisdom not more plans.

Write your plans in pencil and if they go wrong, laugh and get out an eraser. Whatever holiday you might be celebrating (or not at all) remember to write you plans in pencil and, if they go awry, laugh and get out an eraser.

Pat Kadel
Branch President

Treasurer's Report



Marsha Gochenour

As of October 27, 2023:

\$415.14	Checking
214.00	Woman of the Year
14.87	AAUW Funds
1,042.74	NCCWSL, AAUW@SU
315.00	Dr. Amy@SU
4,000.00	CD, 1-year
2,543.27	Froehlich Memorial Scholarship (local)
<u>2,211.27</u>	General Savings
\$10,756.29	Total

Oct-Nov Income: \$103.00 dues, \$175.00 pumpkin roll/Froehlich scholarship

Oct-Nov Disbursements: \$95.00 state and national dues; \$200.00 Liability insurance; \$1,500.00 Froehlich scholarships

Membership

Laurie Gaulke

The fall events have been a boon to meeting new women. The Visitor Center event & the candidates' forum have been engaging venues to meet women and I'm looking for more opportunities in that vein.

A welcome to new member **Julie Abrera** (from the visitor center event). I'm looking forward to her choosing to plug into our activities and mission.

A warm forthcoming welcome to Margot DiSalvo (if she hasn't already joined us officially). **Chris Oxford** shared her name and info with me. We met for coffee, and she is eager to join us with our branch mission.

I'm following up with 2 other potentials, Margy Nolan and Erica Lewis. **Chris Oxford** knows both of them.

I'm looking forward to meeting with Courtney Jarrett, from SU (she was at the visitor center event) this week. She is the Executive Director of Performance & Engagement, plus the Artistic Director for Performing Arts at Shenandoah Conservatory. She could well be another good contact at SU, whether or not AAUW is for her.

Thanks to **Rosemary Green** for assisting me in determining the best ways to connect with SU students. **Sara McCown** and I will get together again to start working on specific ideas, most likely for the spring.

I'll also update the brochure for upcoming events. I think updating it each season works best, depending on the schedule of events.

CLEO

(Classy Ladies Eating Out)

Marsha Gochenour

Monday, 6 p.m.

January 22, 2024

Everest Restaurant

419 Gateway Drive, Suite 1
Winchester, Virginia



CLEO is taking the month of December off as there are multiple culinary adventures to enjoy that are being offered by our community, family, and friends. We will start back up January 22, 2024, at Everest Restaurant, 419 Gateway Drive, Suite 1, with the exotic flavors of authentic Indian cuisine. Winter weather guidelines: if Winchester city schools are closed, we will cancel. Otherwise, we will plan to meet and eat as conditions permit. We try to pick restaurants with plenty of nearby, lighted, flat parking.

Call Marsha (533-8069) if you plan to attend so she will have a head count.

Evening Book Group

Marsha Gochenour

The Book Club is taking the month of December off to spend time with friends and family. We will resume January 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Zoom meeting. The book is *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. As usual, I will email the Zoom link the morning of the meeting.

Monday

January 15, 2024

Zoom 6:00 p.m.



Demon Copperhead

by Barbara Kingsolver

"Anyone will tell you the born of this world are marked from the get-out, win or lose."

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Editor's Note:

There will be no January issue of **Words to the WISE²**.

Enjoy your holidays!

AAUW Adventures

Becki Bronson

Becki Bronson, Amy Fielder, and Theresa Merkel attended the Andrew McKnight folk concert at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church on November 19. Andrew remarked on the lovely acoustics in the sanctuary, where he has played Winchester First Night performances. Our next adventure will be another Grace Evangelical Lutheran offering, the Windsong Community Chorus, Women's Chorus on December 10 at 4 pm. Keep an eye out for the email from me (Becki Bronson) and I hope you can join us!

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Becki Bronson

Planning continues for the joint program between our branch and Winchester NAACP. Dual AAUW and NAACP member **Suzan Herskowitz** has joined the planning committee. The committee will meet the week after Thanksgiving to firm up the theme and program. The program is set for February 29, 2024, exactly between Black History and Women's History months.

Becki attended the monthly AAUW national DEI officers meeting via Zoom, featuring DEI contacts from all over the country who shared their successes and brainstormed ideas for bringing additional DEI activities to the their members.

League of Women Voters of the Northern Shenandoah Valley

Becki Bronson

Rosemary Green, Martha Wolfe, Mady Rodriguez and Becki Bronson attended the Democracy is Brewing in Winchester event on November 9, which was an organizational meeting for the newly formed League of Women Voters of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Pat Wirth is their president and is relatively new to the Winchester area, as I understood it.

The presentation focused on ways to support "lower d" democracy in our community. Many of you probably recall that AAUW has regularly worked in coalition with the League, particularly with regard to matters before the Virginia General Assembly. There is a Democracy Day planned for January 23, 2024, at the General Assembly. AAUW's Lobby Day is January 31. AAUW has in the past run our Lobby Day in conjunction with the League. Locally, there seems to be good potential for coalition building with the new chapter. I am up for going to either or both of these events. It's completely doable as a day trip from Winchester, but we need to leave early. Folks are welcome to ride with me. Let me know if you would like to join me. Be on the lookout for further information from me (Becki Bronson) closer to the time of the events.

One attendee, Claire Baker, who works for United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, is very interested in joining AAUW.

We chatted for a good little while after the meeting, and she gave me her contact information, which I have passed along to Laurie. She attended the November meeting about the ALICE program and was a very active participant.

Mary Froehlich Scholarship Report and Essays

Rosemary Green

Last month, **Becki Bronson** and **Rosemary Green** reviewed applications for the Mary Froehlich Scholarship, which is given to a female student transferring from Laurel Ridge Community College to Shenandoah University. Awarding this scholarship to a local student was always important to Mary, and we have



Mary Froehlich

attempted to honor her interests. These are the essays from the two students who each will receive \$750 to continue her education.

Camberlin Barnes

Education has always been important in my life. I love to read, learn new things and the most important thing is to challenge myself to do the best I can. My career plan is to become a child therapist, I believe if a child receives help early in life, they can go on to achieve their goals and live a wonderful life. I

hope to one day go for my master's and become a psychiatrist. I believe mental health holds people down from achieving their dreams.

My freshman year of college I had three very close family members pass away and I didn't know how to handle all the emotions. I did unfortunately go down a dark path of my own. I began self-harming during the time I was in school too. I thought I had no hope left and was going to discontinue my dreams. After a very close friend of mine reached out to my family, my family and I began the search for a therapist. I, however, didn't want to go, I wanted to prove I was strong enough to fight it on my own. Mental health, however, isn't one of those things you can control and heal yourself always.

My therapist was the best thing that ever happened to me. She helped me overcome the deaths in my family and handle being a freshman in college. I feel my family, best friend, and therapist all saved my life to continue my dreams and education to this day. I look forward to giving back to people in the future just as my therapist helped me. If chosen, I will use the AAUW scholarship to further my education and dreams by paying towards my tuition at Shenandoah University. Thank you for considering me for the AAUW scholarship.

Kara Mondrone

Education has always been a priority of mine. I believe education is one of the greatest tools to utilize in order to grow as

an individual. Education allows for the opportunity to learn new things, have new experiences, make lifelong friendships, and create memories that will never be forgotten. I have already done so many of these things through high school and community college, and I am so excited to continue. It is important for me to continue my education and to continue to take these opportunities to better me as a person for my future after college.

My education goal as of right now is to get a bachelor's degree in business administration concentrating in sports management. After attaining a bachelor's degree, I plan to pursue a master's degree of business administration. My career goal is to work for a professional sports team in the sport business industry.

One individual who has inspired me to pursue a business administration degree is my dad. My dad is one of the hardest working people I know. He currently runs two of his own businesses located in Front Royal, Virginia. He is constantly thinking of ways to grow his business and become more successful. When I graduated high school, I had no plan. I had no idea where I wanted to attend and what I wanted to major in. My dad suggested that I major in business so he could teach me the ins and outs of it while I was learning it in school, so I went with it. I have learned a lot from school and from him. I ended up surprising him with some of the information I learned from Laurel

Ridge. He is someone that has always inspired me and will continue to inspire me throughout my education journey.

I am currently a commuter at Shenandoah University. I live in Front Royal, which is about thirty minutes from campus. I am doing work study to help with the costs of tuition, but it is still very expensive. I have been stressed out about the cost of tuition and gas, so an AAUW scholarship will help lower my stress level and make it easier to focus on my education rather than my finances here at Shenandoah University. Thank you for this opportunity!

AAUW of Virginia State Conference



**April 12, 2024
Pre-Conference Fun**

**April 13, 2024
State Conference**

**Lynchburg,
Virginia**

CALENDAR

December 9	Peter Bullough Foundation, 10 a.m., Artists in Residence
January 15	Book Group, via Zoom, 6 p.m., <i>Demon Copperhead</i>
January 20	Deadline for February issue of <i>Words to the WISE²</i>
January 22	CLEO, Everest Restaurant, 419 Gateway Drive, 6 p.m.
January 24	Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.
February 10	Famous Black Women of Winchester, 10 a.m., T-Bone Steak and Grill

AAUW Lobby Corps is Back!!



**After 3 years of absence, AAUW Lobby Corp was back on the hill,
Thursday, July 27, 2023.
There were 14 members, many from Virginia.**

Here's an update on their efforts from **Meghan Kissell**, AAUW Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy:

One of our partners just reported on a call that they were speaking to the office of Rep. Harder who told them our members were in earlier and they were going to talk to the Congressman as soon as possible. We have also seen 15 more members of Congress sign the petition to discharge the ERA vote on H.J. Res. 25 from committee (this brings us to 181 petition-signers!). Such a wonderful testament to the value of Lobby Corps! The next step on this issue is that we'll be working with our State and Branch Public Policy Chairs around the country to continue this ask over the August recess.

Catch up on recent webinars!

AAUW is committed to staying connected during these difficult times, so we're providing regular webinar content for our communities. National staff and outside experts bring you engaging programming on the issues most important to you. Check out the recordings from past webinars and look out for news of upcoming online events!

[View a variety of engaging webinars HERE.](#)

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